

Gender Issues Survey Results: Girls' Needs are Unique but Shared Across Jurisdictions

The needs of girls are many and unique to them: pregnancy and parenting education and services, prior victimization counseling and services and mental health treatment, topped the list according to the results of the CJCA Gender Issues survey.

But their needs also are similar, whether from a large diverse state, major metropolitan area or small rural system. The common needs also include medical assistance, girls-only facilities, gender-specific programming and specialized staff and staff training.

CJCA's Gender Issues Committee surveyed administrators on issues related to young female offenders, seeking to better understand the size, nature, needs and systems available for girls.

Thirty-seven respondents showed that girls are a growing population for juvenile correctional agencies and highlighted



Missouri Division of Youth Services youths at their new group home on William Wood University Campus. Please see page 4 for story.

some trends shared nationwide. Full results of the survey will be discussed at the next Gender Issues Committee meeting May 5 in San Diego. (Any jurisdiction that has not responded may submit the survey by April 30 to be included.) The information will be used to develop a Gender Issues webpage as part of the CJCA website.

Generally, the two most common placement options for girls are secure facilities/institutions or home placement with

outreach and tracking services. About half of the girls reported in secure settings were placed in female only facilities. Female-only programs are available in most jurisdictions (about 72 percent of respondents) with Colorado providing the most with 22 different female-only programs, including the construction of secure girls' facility underway.

About half of the respondents provide programs for mothers and children and about half of

the respondents require specialized training for staff who work with girls. Very few jurisdiction budget differently for female programs.

Cross-gender supervision was a minor issue for most jurisdictions but a very big problem for a few (eight percent).

Thank you to respondents: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Cook County, IL, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, King County, WA., Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, New York City, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Please see page 4 for resources recommended by respondents.

Georgia Study: DJJ Becoming Mental Health Care Delivery System

Consistent with the national trend reported by the US Surgeon General in January, the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has become the mental health care delivery system for troubled, at-risk youths in the state, according to a consultant's study.

Georgia DJJ Commissioner Orlando Martinez requested the study of mental health needs of youths committed to DJJ and placed in long term programs. It was conducted from November 2000-February 2001 by A. Fernandez and Associates.

Some of the findings were released recently in an executive summary:

- 66% of the youths have a history of inpatient or outpatient mental health treatment;
- 25% of the admissions had one or more psychiatric hospitalizations prior to admission;
- 43% were on some type of psychotropic medication at the time of admission;
- 66% have a history of substance abuse or substance abuse dependency;
- 45% show co-morbid mental health and substance abuse problems;
- 21%, by history, show suicide tendencies;
- 24% had a current or prior sex offense; over 80% of these have a history of mental health treatment;
- 63% of the sex offenders have a history of sexual, physical or emotional abuse;
- 32% have a history of involvement with special education programs;
- Approximately 38% scored well below average and low extreme average on standardized intelligence tests;
- 84% have a prior history of involvement with the juvenile justice system; and
- 9% of the admissions were under 13 years of age.

The complete study will be presented to DJJ shortly and will include an action plan that will use a continuum of care model emphasizing community-based services to address the behavioral health care needs of the youths.

For more information you may contact Orlando Martinez, commissioner of Georgia's DJJ.

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CJCA

The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of juvenile correctional services and practices.

Established in 1994, CJCA unites the nation's top correction chief executive officers in a collaborative effort to promote and advance juvenile systems.

Through CJCA, administrators exchange ideas and philosophies about best practices, address common issues and develop national leadership strategy.

Membership is open to individuals directly responsible for the administration of juvenile correctional institutions or the total juvenile correctional system of a state, or the person responsible for a system in a metropolitan area with a population of 500,000 or more. Associate membership is offered to individuals who have held such a position in the past.

For more information, contact:

CJCA

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Guns and Young Brains

Edward J. Loughran, Executive Director

Several years ago as an expert witness I concluded that access to a loaded gun was ultimately to blame for the shooting of a foster parent by the youth in her care. My stance was of course hotly debated and I was cross-examined extensively. The woman had been shot in the face during an attempted robbery and felt the state owed her compensation for not telling her how dangerous the youth was.

Focusing on access to the gun in that case was in effect putting the responsibility on the adult. I knew it was a harsh position but I believed it was correct. The foster parents

showed poor judgment leaving 13 guns, some loaded, available in their house.

Now thanks to a recent article about the immaturity of the brain of 15-year-olds, I am certain that access to the gun caused the accident.

Daniel R. Weinberger, director of the Clinical Brain Disorders Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health, wrote a very brief lesson on brain development that was published in the March 10 edition of *The New York Times*.

His article states clearly that the brain, specifically the prefrontal cortex, which is critical to good judgment and suppression of impulse, takes at least 20 years to become fully formed and functioning. The prefrontal cortex is what makes it possible to do things such as check the impulse to run from a fire in a crowded theater by heeding the brain's reasonable "don't panic" message because it makes more sense. It also allows us to live in a society based on moral and legal codes. It controls behavior and impulses that arise from anger and vengeance.

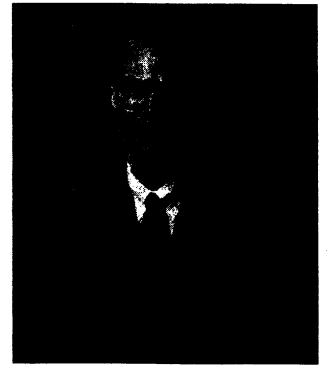
The development of the prefrontal cortex can be impaired by neurological disease, drugs and alcohol or head injury that damage those cells. Only a fully developed prefrontal cortex can anticipate the future and rationally appreciate cause and effect, Weinberger explained.

"The evidence is unequivocal that the prefrontal cortex of a 15-year-old is biologically immature. The connections are not final, the networks are still being strengthened and the full capacity for inhibitory control is still years away."

Weinberger wrote in relation to the school shooting in Santana High in California. He doesn't explain the immature brain to absolve the behavior or to detract from the tragedy. But he argues it's an example of how and why adolescents need adults to make plans and set rules; he says parents provide a "lend-lease prefrontal cortex" until a child can develop his or her own.

I think the article is a powerful message to all adults to be responsible for their adolescents. I think the message for us as juvenile correctional leaders is to reaffirm our role as *parens patriae* for the youths in custody.

I also think there is a message about guns: they are dangerous and deadly in the hands and mind of a hurt or vengeful youth.



Hot off the Press:

"Youth in the Criminal Justice System: Guidelines for Policymakers and Practitioners," available for free from the American Bar Association Service Center, PO Box 10892, Chicago, IL 60610-0892 or phone: (800)285-2221. Product Code #5090082

Girls Group Home Open on MO College Campus

The Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) recently opened a new group home for young women on the campus of William Woods University (WWU), a coeducational institution serving a total enrollment of 1,400 students. The 11-bed facility opened January 2001.

The community-based residential treatment program is for girls ages 12 to 17. Each resident participates in group and individual counseling and attends classes in an educational program that is accredited by the state. Group home residents play an active part in the community by participating in local service projects.

"A heavy emphasis is placed on the students to improve on their socialization skills and to participate in community and campus activities. The new program on this prestigious college campus provides an excellent opportunity for these young women to gain a great deal of experience and confidence in these areas," said DYS Director Mark Steward.

Residents of the new group home enjoy the opportunity to experience life on a college campus. The young women have been eating in the WWU dining hall along with the university students, taking walks on the beautiful campus grounds and have attended evening lectures and other programs. They visit the library and art museum as enrichments for their academic program. The residents and staff will be attending plays as well as rooting for the WWU Owls at sporting events on campus.

DYS and the university faculty are very excited about the potential of the collaborative project. The unique partnership has much to offer both the agency and the university. According to University President Jahnae



DYS youths participate in the University's equestrian program.

Barnett: "The new group home will offer our students the opportunity for on-campus internships for students in the juvenile justice, social work and special education degree programs. This will give many of our students an excellent opportunity to gain some valuable hands-on experience in their chosen field of education."

Student interns will work under the guidance of DYS staff while gaining valuable on-the-job experience with the group home's counseling and educational programs. This arrangement will allow the facility to benefit from the energy and creativity of the university interns while developing the skills of future colleagues in the field.

For more information you may contact Mark Steward at DYS.

More Survey Results: Resources on Girls and Female Programming

LITERATURE:

"Deadly Consequences: How Violence is Destroying Our Teenage Population and a Plan to Begin Solving the Problem" by Deborah Prothrow-Smith.

"Reviving Ophelia" by Mary Pipher
"Ophelia Speaks" by Sara Shandler

"Services and Programs for Juvenile Female Offenders," curriculum from the National Institute of Corrections

"Take Care of Females Parenting Manual," NY State Division for Youth

WEBSITES:

Teen Troubles

www.teentrouble4girls.homestead.com/

- Talks about girls' problems and how to handle them.

Educating Jane www.educatingjane.com/

- Information on mentoring, women in history, links to sites about girls, career information.

Girl Power www.health.org/gpower/index.htm

- Health, books, support and chat rooms for ages 9-14.

Girls Unlimited www.girlsunlimited.com/

- Information on money, careers, college.

News from our Members

Brent Reinke reports from Idaho:

Most of the Department of Juvenile Corrections (DJC)'s first five years have been spent assessing the needs of the existing juvenile justice infrastructure, developing needed resources and partnerships and working with courts, county probation and community groups to implement the Juvenile Corrections Act. In addition, the department continues to refine its programming based on the most recent national research and enhanced quality assurance procedures.

Significant progress has been made in developing the foundation to implement the components of the Balanced Approach-Community Justice model. This development will continue as the department works to assemble an integrated juvenile justice system.

Idaho's Faith and Justice Network

Community justice is one of the foundations of DJC's mission. The purpose of the network is to form comprehensive partnerships with community faith-based organizations to provide voluntary prevention, intervention, diversion and treatment and aftercare programs for at-risk and delinquent youths. Faith-based organizations are a strong resource in Idaho's communities. The network encourages and assists faith-based organization and community partners in their efforts to enhance, develop and implement new programs and services to meet the needs of youths and their families.

Completion of Juvenile Corrections Center - Lewiston

The completion of the new center in July 2001 will mark the end of the first phase of DJC growth. Once complete, efforts will turn toward regionalization of services and continued development of programs based on the "what works" literature.

Under the regionalization plan, the department will begin to develop services and resources with the three institutions being at the heart of each regional system. Each institution will work with the department to develop a range of services that meet the needs of the counties in that region. The department will continue to maintain a strong central oversight within the regional system to ensure consistency between state-operated programs and program elements, such as clinical services, education, quality assurance and training.

David A. Gaspar reports from Arizona:

Education Programs Contribute to Successes

The education staff of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) continues to demonstrate "marked improvement and continued success" among youths who are committed to the department, according to an annual report recently delivered to Gov. Jane Dee Hull and some members of the Legislature.

"The six hours of classroom learning that are part of the department's programs within the secure facilities, and the ongoing education efforts that are provided to youths on conditional liberty, have produced measurable improvement through educational test scores," Director David A. Gaspar wrote in a letter accompanying the FY 2000-01 Annual Report

on ADJC's educational system.

The director also praised the School-to-Career program, which helps the youths to identify career goals and determine the skills that must be improved to reach those objectives. This program "equips youths with the tools to become productive, self-supporting individuals," Gaspar said. The annual education report noted that, on average, juveniles who go through secure facility education classes demonstrate the following for every month they are incarcerated:

- A 1.7 months gain in language skills;
- A 2.1 months gain in reading; and
- A 1.6 months gain in math.

In addition, students who went through ADJC secure facilities earned 331 General Equivalency Diplomas and Eighth-Grade Certificates last year.

"We realize that in no small measure this continuous educational improvement is one key to our enviable outcomes in both student performance and juvenile recidivism," Gaspar said.

Karen Brazeau reports from Oregon:

North Coast Program Fosters "Healthy Relationships"

North Coast YCF opened its doors originally at Camp Rilea in May 1997. Shortly after that the Women's Resource Center was approached about doing a Parenting Group and a Dating Violence Group for the young men who were incarcerated at the facility. We found from talking to the young men and reviewing the files that quite a few had children. Many of them also had been involved in some type of violence either in the home, on the streets or with a girlfriend.

Jill River of Women's Resource Center began with the Dating Violence Group. When NCYCF moved into their new facility in March 1998, the Parenting Group was started with Jill and her co-facilitator, Kim Harris. The Dating Violence Group name was changed to Healthy Relationships at the request of the youths. We wanted the group to be more inviting and include even those youths who considered themselves not violent. Both groups have been very popular in the Skipanon Unit, where the groups are coordinated. Youths from other units have, at times, participated in the Parenting Group.

For a year there was a small female population at NCYCF who had a separate Healthy Relationships Group. The groups met together at the end to discuss and report to each other what they learned and how they felt. The agenda for Healthy Relationships Group is: Group Skills, Date Expectations, Defining Abuse and Respect, Whole People, Naming the Violence, Cycle of Violence, Dating Right and Responsibilities, Date Rape, Communication and Sexual Harassment.

Nurses, midwives, OSU extension personnel, childcare givers, and early development specialists, visited to speak with the groups. Women's Resource Center uses Americorp volunteers for the project. The youths learn sex education, the birthing process, child development, discipline, and more. There have been some youths that enjoyed this group so much they participated again.

Colorado's Betty Marler: Teacher, Trainer, Director

Betty Marler came to juvenile correction by way of education. She started more than 35 years ago as a high school teacher, then after graduate school, moved to a small college in Denver. The college was awarded a U.S. Office of Education Teacher Corps grant to train students, many of them ex-offenders, to become teachers. Betty worked for 10 years on the Teacher Corps, earned her master's degree in social work, then became the training director for the Colorado Division of Youth Services (DYC), under then-director Orlando Martinez.



Throughout her career Betty has held an enduring belief:

"Perhaps because of some of my own experiences as a teenager, I believe that troubled kids can make major contributions to our communities if they can get on the right track. Frequently 'getting on the right track' requires only a single caring adult to work with a young man or a young woman."

Betty was named DYC director in 1998, following the footsteps of Jerry Adamek.

DYC manages the detention system in Colorado, as well as the full security continuum for delinquent youths in out of home placement and aftercare services through parole. In addition, DYC administers a community-based program for alternatives to incarceration, both commitment and detention, known as Senate Bill 94, which serves approximately 5,000 youngsters each year. On any given day there are about 1,350 youths in commitment placements, ranging from secure facilities to community group homes, about 690 youths in residential detention care and 750 youths on parole status.

Betty has continued Colorado's active membership of CJCA since her appointment as director and became CJCA's secretary earlier this year.

Q: Please describe the "typical" youth committed to DYC and how he or she is handled.

A: The typical youth committed to DYC is male, 15-16 years old, has had at least two prior adjudications and is several years behind his peers academically. More than half of the committed youths are in need of special education services. A little more than half of the youths committed to DYC are children of color and approximately 20 percent of the youths need intensive mental health services. Sixty percent are committed for felony property offenses and about 30 percent are sent to DYC after a felony person offense.

Q: What is the pressing juvenile justice issue in Colorado and how is it impacting your agency?

A: There are a number of issues that are impacting DYC. The most pressing issues are related to the increasing numbers of special needs populations. There has been a movement in Colorado, particularly in the Denver metro area, to limit the number of sex offenders in community placements through the establishment of local ordinances prohibiting more than two offenders in any one placement. As a result, sex offenders are remaining in secure care much longer than is necessary for either their treatment needs or public safety.

Another issue impacting us, as is the case throughout the country, is the increasing number of youths, in both detention centers and commitment facilities, with severe

mental health problems. Many of these youths are dually diagnosed with serious substance abuse problems in addition to their mental health diagnosis.

Lastly, the increasing number of girls has impacted the ability of the Division to expand capacity to address the gender specific needs of young women.

Q: How you are handling the influx of youths with mental illness and the other special populations and the issues those groups raise for juvenile corrections?

A: Colorado has been very proactive in addressing the special needs issues of youths entering the system and the state legislature has supported these efforts. Our commitment facilities have been licensed by the state division of drug and alcohol abuse as licensed treatment centers and staff, who are licensed as substance abuse counselors, continue to undergo training in substance abuse treatment.

About five years ago, DYC began to contract with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, School of Psychiatry, to establish a special needs unit at Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center. This unit fully integrates DYC staff and the staff of the medical school to serve seriously disturbed youth. This contract was expanded a few years ago to provide mental health support services to all of the residential units on the campus. The Division established two pilot projects to address the mental health issues of youths in detention. The detention projects

(Continued on next page)

Betty Marler, Con't

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encompass training and technical assistance to line-staff, assessment and crisis intervention services to youths. The services are provided by the local mental health centers while the youths are in detention. Upon release from detention, the mental health centers continue to work with youngsters and their families. These pilots are showing very positive outcomes in terms of re-arrest, re-offending rates and improved functioning for the youth and families. This summer, the Division and one of the state mental health institutes will begin construction of a 20-bed secure, hospital-based unit for committed youths with the most severe mental health needs who also require a secure setting. In addition to addressing the needs of youths in secure care, DYC has developed a community placement continuum that includes Residential Treatment Centers, funded by Medicaid, and Multi-Systemic Therapy approaches for youths on parole.

The division's major shortcoming in providing a full continuum for young women was the lack of an adequate secure facility. DYC is currently constructing a 40-bed secure facility for young women that has been designed to address the specific needs of young women. It will be a state-owned facility, but a request for proposals will be issued for a provider to operate the program.

Building Blocks for Youth: A New Initiative Addressing Overrepresentation

A research, advocacy and public education initiative called "Building Blocks for Youth" has been launched to reduce the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of minority youths and to promote fair, rational and effective juvenile justice policies.

Supported by several private foundations, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Building Blocks for Youth addresses recent research that shows an overrepresentation of African-American, Latino and Native American youths in almost all 50 states' juvenile justice systems.

Building Blocks for Youth provides reports, fact sheets and materials through its website at: www.buildingblocksforyouth.org and an on-line newsletter. To subscribe, send an email to: info.bby@erols.com.

CJCA's PbS Project Expands

In-state Mentoring Begins; Regional Collaboration Next

CJCA is expanding the number of juvenile correction and detention facilities implementing the performance-based standards (PbS) system to at least 83 by this fall and hopes to include 100 facilities or one-tenth of all facilities nationwide in early 2002.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which funds the PbS project, has agreed to support 83 facilities this year. CJCA is working with several states that have at least one participating facility to expand implementation within the jurisdiction and increase participation at minimal cost.

The PbS system has been developed and refined since CJCA was awarded the work in 1995. PbS now provides facilities with a continual improvement system that sets goals and standards for operations, outcome measures to assess performance, reports and diagnostics to analyze data driving the outcome measures and tools to make improvements. The cycle is continuous: assess (collect data), analyze and improve - then start over again.

Project Director Edward J. Loughran recommends statewide implementation of the standards as the best method for making systemic changes. Loughran and the project team have developed a model for states to expand that designates and trains a mentor facility and facility staff to spearhead efforts within the jurisdiction. CJCA continues to provide the orientation and training and assistance of a project consultant.

Currently Kentucky and Ohio have added more facilities using the mentoring model. Kentucky's two original facilities, one correction and one detention, serve as in-state resources for the additional 14 facilities collecting data for the first time in April. Kentucky and Ohio state leaders are working together to provide additional regional support and mentoring. For example, Ohio will include PbS in an upcoming forum and invite Kentucky participants.

"We think this is the best way to bring new facilities on board," Loughran said. "The state director needs to commit from the top down and build the system within the state or jurisdiction. That will ensure complete and sustainable implementation of PbS."

**www.performance-
standards.org**

CJCA 7th Annual Meeting May 4-5 San Diego

Friday, May 4

- 4 p.m. Executive Board - *Coronado Room*
- 6 p.m. Welcome Reception - *Location to be posted*
Sponsored by Corrections Corp. of America

Saturday, May 5

- 8 a.m. Breakfast - *Malibu 2*
Sponsored by Chuck Kehoe and
Securicor New Century LLC
- 8:30- 9:30 a.m. Best Practices Committee - *Carmel 3*
* Sherese Brewington-Carr, DE, Chair
- 9:45-10:45 a.m. State-Federal Leadership Committee - *Carmel 3*
* W.G. "Bill" Bankhead, FL, Chair
- Substance Abuse Committee - *Sausalito*
* Frank Alarcon, FL, Chair
- Gender Issues Committee - *Santa Barbara*
* Gina Wood, SC, Chair
- 11-12 noon Regional Meetings - (*rooms to be announced*)
* Midwest- Ralph Kelly, KY, Representative
* Northeast - Bob Gittens, MA, Representative
* South - Orlando Martinez, GA, Representative
* West - Brent Reinke, ID, Representative
- 12 noon Lunch - *Malibu 2*
Sponsored by Paul Donnelly and Correctional Services
Corporation/Youth Services International
- 1- 2 p.m. Performance-based Standards Session - *Carmel 3*
- 2-4 p.m. Business Meeting - (*Room to be announced*)
* President's Report
* Executive Director's Report
* Outstanding Administrator Award Presentation
* Guest Reports
* Committee Reports
* Regional Reports
* Other Business

Comings and Goings

Pam Cline has been named
Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile
Services for the
Indiana Department of Corrections.

Evelyn Ridley-Turner has been
promoted to Commissioner of the
Indiana Department of Corrections.

Joe Diamond has been named
Commissioner of the New Hamp-
shire Department of Youth Develop-
ment Services. **Peter Favreau** has left
that position.

Leroy A. Garia has been named
director of the Juvenile Justice
Division for the New Mexico Chil-
dren, Youth and Families Depart-
ment. **Stan Read** has left that posi-
tion.

International
Community Corrections
Association (ICCA)
Annual Conference
Sept. 23-26
Philadelphia

"Offenders'
Reintegration and
Re-entry into the Family"

Cosponsored by: Family and
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Parole and Correction.

CJCA Summer Business Meeting
Aug. 10-12, Philadelphia